GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6870
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2000
INDIA`S RELATIONS WITH ISLAMIC WORLD
ABDUL HAMID

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India`s relations with Islamic World received a boost in the last week of February, 2000 with high level visitors from Morocco and Saudi Arabia; and

(b) if so, the broad features thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a & b) India has always attached importance to its relations with all countries including countries having majority of Muslim population. Accordingly there have been regular exchange of visits with these countries to discuss issues of interest. During the month of February Prime Minister of Morocco Abderrahmane El Youssoufi and Deputy Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia Nizar Obaid Madani visited India. During these two visits important global, regional and bilateral issues were discussed. In addition, during the visit of Prime Minister of Morocco a number of Agreements were signed. These include the Agreement on Merchant Shipping and Related Maritime Matters, the Memorandum of Understanding in the field of Geology and Mining and the Agreement between Prasar Bharti, Doordarshan and the Radiodiffusion Television Marocaine (RTM). In addition, an agreement was initialled between the Confederation of Indian Industry and its Moroccan counterpart organisation to form a Joint Business Council.